



Volunteer Tennessee

encouraging volunteerism and community service

Volunteer Tennessee is a 25-member, bi-partisan commission appointed by the Governor. Its mission is to encourage volunteerism and community service. The agency manages over \$5 million in grants and training services to support AmeriCorps programs and volunteer centers across the state. Since 1994, Volunteer Tennessee and its programs have leveraged \$76 million in federal funds with \$80 million in local match, and 13,000 Tennessee AmeriCorps members have served over 26 million hours meeting critical needs for tens of thousands of Tennesseans. For every dollar of its \$296,900 in FY19 State appropriations, Volunteer Tennessee will leverage \$106 in federal and local match for a total of \$31,735,883 in non-state funds.

Volunteer Statistics

* Tennessee's **1.65 million** volunteers gave **137.7 million hours of service** last year, contributing the equivalent of **\$3.3 billion** to Tennessee's economy.

* The 2018 *Volunteering and Civic Life in America* report ranked Tennessee 31st in the nation for the percentage of residents who volunteer in their communities. Volunteer Tennessee would like to see us do better.

* In Tennessee, over **5,250 people** participate in national service each year through **800 projects and programs**. The Corporation for National and Community Service will commit more than **\$18.0 million** in 2019 to support Tennessee communities through Senior Corps and AmeriCorps programs.



Disaster Response

Volunteer Tennessee is the lead state agency for volunteers and donations under the Tennessee Emergency Management Plan. Beginning the night of November 28, 2016 through most of December, Volunteer Tennessee staff worked out of the State Emergency Operations Center to support local efforts to manage volunteers and donations in Sevier County. Volunteer Tennessee Board member and Volunteer East Tennessee's Executive Director, Alex Brownfield, took the leadership role in managing volunteers by establishing a Volunteer Reception Center in Sevierville. Volunteer East Tennessee leveraged over **101,800 volunteer hours** on recovery efforts. The value of the volunteer service is over **\$2.3 million**. Volunteer Tennessee Board member Brandon Johnson coordinated Lions Clubs to collect \$49,000 in cash donations to help families affected by the fires.



Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards

The Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards recognizes exemplary youth and adult volunteers across the State. Last year's event was a great success with **108 volunteers** recognized from **61 counties** and over 350 people in attendance.

Volunteer Tennessee organizes and implements the program in consultation with county mayors and local coordinators. The 2019 event is scheduled for February 9, 2020 in Franklin, TN.



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AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps is a strong network of local programs connecting over 70,000 Americans in intensive service to meet critical, community-identified needs in disaster services, economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, and veterans and military families.

During the 2018-19 program year, Volunteer Tennessee will administer **\$4,705,489 in AmeriCorps grants** to local non-profit agencies. Throughout the state, **1,006 AmeriCorps members** will accomplish the following:

- * provide classroom academic performance improvement for **22,490 students** in low-performing schools.
- * provide basic needs assistance to **600 veterans and their families**;
- * tutor and mentor more than **4,600 students**, helping them achieve greater scholastic and civic success;
- * provide environmental education to **4,000 individuals** to increase their environmental stewardship awareness;
- * provide access to appropriate housing and improved work-readiness for **3,200 economically disadvantaged individuals**;
- * assist **750 frail senior citizens** to increase vitality and live independently in their own homes;
- * provide improved school readiness for **480 Head Start children**;



TN Conference on Volunteerism & Service-Learning

In 2010, Volunteer Tennessee, with its partners Tennessee Campus Compact, State Farm and the Corporation for National and Community Service Tennessee State Office, convened the first-ever statewide conference on volunteerism and service-learning. Since then, the Tennessee Conference on Volunteerism and Service-Learning has continued to bring together the best civic leaders across the state to share innovative ways to encourage volunteerism and provide a solid infrastructure for people to serve. The Conference aims to increase service and volunteerism across Tennessee as a means of problem-solving throughout all stages of life.



Service-Learning

Service-learning is a teaching methodology that combines hands-on learning with community service. For example, a science class learning about water quality can apply classroom instruction to cleaning up a local stream.

- * Volunteer Tennessee works in partnership with Metro Nashville Public Schools to provide service-learning training to teachers in Davidson County.
- * Research shows that service-learning is especially effective in improving grades, attendance and behavior among at-risk youth. Service-learning is a great, low-cost strategy to keep students focused and in school.
- * Our 25 expert State Farm service-learning trainers can deliver quality service-learning trainings across Tennessee. This diverse group of trainers has experience in K-12 schools, community-based agencies and higher education institutions. The goal of this cohort of trainers is to build the capacity for service-learning as a strategy in Tennessee.

A rigorous scientific evaluation involving 1,100 TN students revealed the following benefits of service-learning:

1. Students reduced school absences by 52 percent.
2. Students improved academically by as much as one letter grade.
3. Students reported positive lifestyle changes as a result of service-learning.
4. Students reported lower alcohol consumption after participating in service-learning.
5. Students increased their attitudes about being a leader and making a difference at school and in their communities.

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